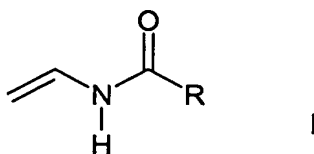We claim:-

1. A process for pretreating cellulosic textile, which comprises the steps of:

5   (a)   treating cellulosic textile with a solution of polymer or copolymer obtainable by

       (a1)   polymerization or copolymerization of N-vinylamide of the general formula I,

10   where

                R   is selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_{10}-alkyl, and

       (a2)   partial hydrolysis if appropriate,
15
       (b)   optionally drying the treated textile, and

       (c)   optionally saponifying all or some of the amide groups,

20   wherein at least one of the steps (a2) and (c) is carried out.

2. A process according to claim 1, that utilizes aqueous solution of polymer or co-polymer.

25 3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R represents hydrogen in the general formula I.

4. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polymer or copolymer obtainable by polymerization or copolymerization of N-vinylamide of the ge-
30   neral formula I has an M_w in the range from 10,000 to 1,000,000 g/mol.

5. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the copolymer is obtainable
        by (a1) copolymerization of N-vinylamide of the general formula I
35   with at least one further comonomer selected from N-vinylpyrrolidone and
        N-vinylimidazole.

6. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 5 that utilizes polymer or copoly-
    mer obtainable by

    (a1) polymerization or copolymerization of N-vinylamide of general formula I and
    (a2) subsequennt partial hydrolysis.

7. Cellulosic textile pretreated by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

8. Use of cellulosic textile pretreated by a process according to at least one of
    claims 1 to 6 for producing dyed textilie.

9. A process for producing dyed cellulosic textile, which comprises dyeing pre-
    treated cellulosic textile according to claim 7 with reactive, vat or direct dye.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the dyeing liquor contains in the range
     from 0 to 20 g/l of one or more inorganic salts.

11. Dyed cellulosic textile obtainable by a process according to claim 9 or 10.